

TESTUDO IMBRICATA?



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus tetrapodum, caudatum, testa obteetum.

Os mandibulis nudis, edentulis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 350.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

TESTUDO palmarum plantarumque unguibus binis, scutis laxè atque imbricatim incumbentibus?

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1036.

TESTUDO *Caretta*.

Raj. quadr. p. 258?

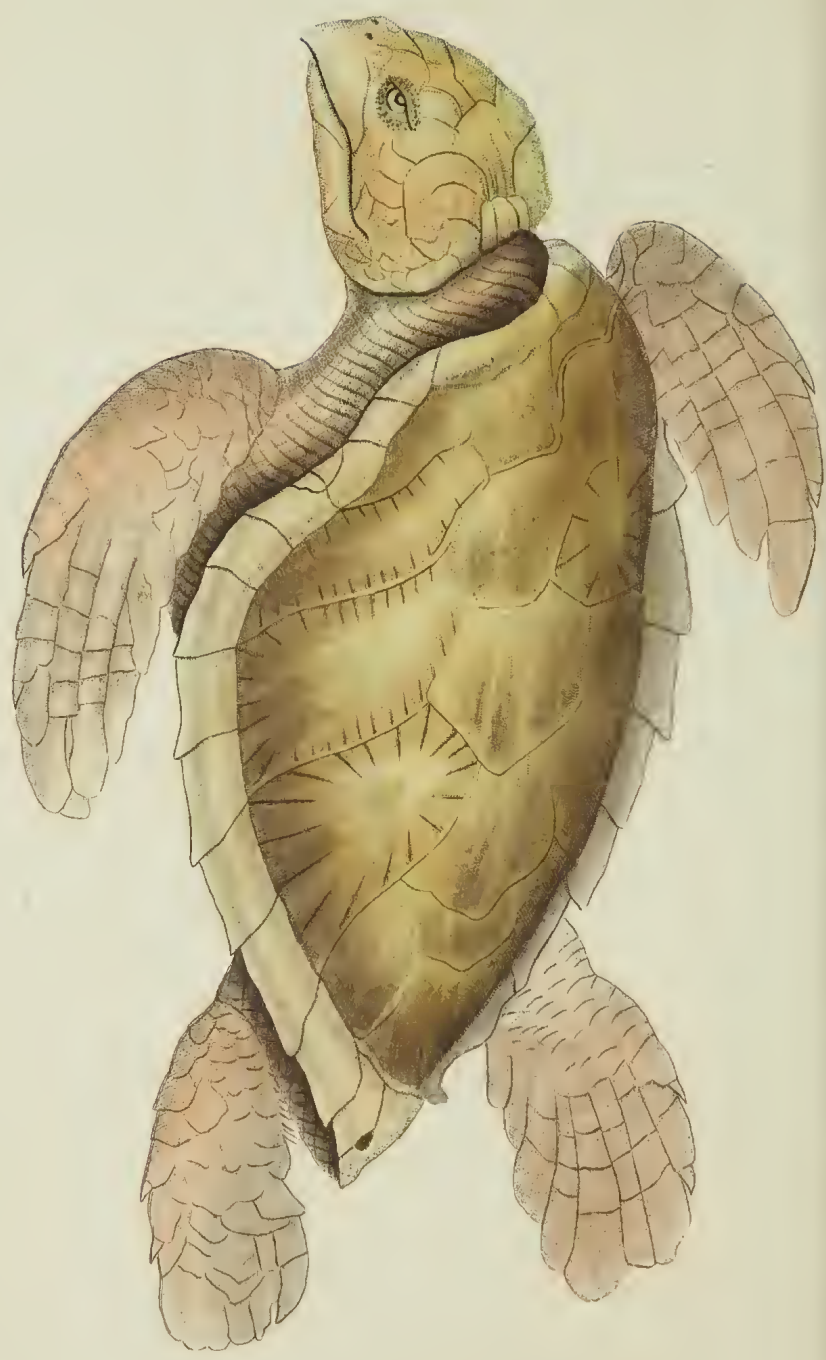
TESTUDO *Marina Americana*?

Seb. Mus. 1. p. 130. t. 80. fig. 9.

Dividitur genus in testudines terrestres, fluviatiles, et marinas. Marinis quæ vulgo dicuntur *Turtles*, pedes sunt quasi pinniformes, lati, et squamati. Harum præcipua est species *Mydas* dicta, hodie habita in exquisitissimis dapibus. Dividi solet tegmen testudinis jam depictæ, nec non testudinis *Mydæ* et *Carette* Linnæi, in tenues lamellas artificiose

ficioſe paratas et expolitas; unde multa et ſatis quæſtuofa fit mercatura. Cruſtis teſtudinis lectos, domuum poſtes, et reliqua ejuſmodi decorare mos erat veteribus.

Fœcundæ admodum ſunt teſtudines pleræque marinæ, ovaque numeroſa in arena deponunt, ovis galinaceis non abſimilia, ſed cute quaſi membranacea obtecta, et rotundata; unde poſt paucos dies excluſi pulli mari ſe illico credunt. Ampliſſima interdum eſt moles teſtudinis imbricatæ & *Mydæ*. Fuiſſe dicuntur nonnullæ pondo ſexcenis, longitudine plus quinquipedali. Communiter autem captantur bipedales, ſeu tripedales. Alitur præcipue teſtudo imbricata in maribus Americanis, frequentior apud infulas Jamaicæ, Cubæ, Hispaniolæ, &c. Victitat, ut ſolent aliæ teſtudines marinæ, teſtaceis, ſepiis, fucis, reliquiſque ejuſmodi.



THE
IMBRICATED TORTOISE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body four-footed, tailed; covered with a shell.
Mouth with uncovered, toothless, bony mandibles.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SEA-TORTOISE with two claws on each foot;
the shell consisting of laxly-imbricated, acuminated scales.

Hawk's-Bill TURTLE?

Brown. Jam. p. 465.

Scaly TORTOISE?

Grew. Mus. p. 38. t. 3.

The animals of this genus are divided into land, river, and sea tortoises; which latter are commonly distinguished by the name of Turtles; and are furnished with broad, flat feet, resembling a kind of thick, scaly fins. Of these the most important species is the *Testudo Mydas*, which has long been celebrated for the peculiar delicacy of its flesh, and which forms a principal article in the repasts of modern

modern epicures. It is from the species here represented, as well as from the *Caretta* and *Mydas* of Linnæus, that a great part of what is commonly called tortoise-shell is procured; and which, when properly prepared and polished, affords so many beautiful and valuable articles of commerce. The ancients were well acquainted with the ornamental use of tortoise-shell, and applied it to the decoration of their houses, &c.

Most of the animals of this tribe are extremely prolific, and deposit their eggs, which are about the size of hen's eggs, but round, and covered with a membranaceous skin, under the sand; which, after a certain number of days, are hatched; and the young immediately betake themselves to the sea. The *Testudo imbricata* and *Mydas* grow sometimes to a vast size; and have been seen of the length of five or six feet, and of the weight of many hundred pounds: the general length however is about two or three feet. This species is a native of the American seas, and is common about the coasts of Jamaica, Cuba, Hispaniola, &c. Like the rest of its tribe, it feeds on shell-fish, cuttles, fuci, &c. &c.